

Application No. 10/082,525  
Amendment

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims

- 1) (canceled)
- 2) (currently amended) ~~A framework as in~~ The process of Claim 1 21, wherein the first search framework tier includes a tree of accessible/searchable objects built of NetResource types, wherein the NetResource types represent the sources/resources API through a set of virtual functions.
- 3) (currently amended) ~~A framework as in~~ The process of Claim 2, wherein the tree of accessible/searchable objects built of NetResource types includes at least one virtual NetResource and a plurality of non-virtual NetResources, wherein said at least one virtual NetResource organizes said plurality of non-virtual NetResources into groups and sub-groups.
- 4) (currently amended) ~~A framework as in~~ The process of Claim 1 21, wherein the first search framework tier includes manager classes.
- 5) (currently amended) ~~A framework as in~~ The process of claim 4, wherein the manager classes are selected from the group consisting of download manager, scan manager, and properties manager.

Application No. 10/082,525  
Amendment

Page 3

- 6) (currently amended) ~~A framework as in~~ The process of Claim 1 21, wherein the first search framework tier includes resource handles.
- 7) (currently amended) ~~A framework as in~~ The process of Claim 1 21, wherein the first search framework tier includes threading classes.
- 8) (canceled)
- 9) (currently amended) A search system including the framework of Claim 22 ~~utilizing an abstraction layer to handle heterogeneous network resources and heterogeneous access methodologies, comprising wherein:~~
- a) ~~a the framework incorporating~~ incorporates self-contained modules containing derived NetResource types; ~~and~~
  - b) the search system further comprises means for deploying and combining said modules; and
  - c) the abstraction layer allows the user to access heterogeneous network resources and heterogeneous access methodologies of the search system through deployment and combination of said modules.
- 10) (currently amended) ~~A The framework of Claim 22 for creating search systems of network access methodologies, further comprising:~~
- a) a first search tier defining the sources/resources API; and

Application No. 10/082,525  
Amendment

Page 4

- b) a second search tier providing specific implementations of the sources/resources API.
- 11) (currently amended) A framework as in Claim 10, wherein the first search tier includes a tree of accessible/searchable objects built of NetResource types.
- 12) (currently amended) A framework as in Claim 10, wherein the first search tier includes manager classes.
- 13) (original) A framework as in claim 12, wherein the manager classes are selected from the group consisting of download manager, scan manager, and properties manager.
- 14) (currently amended) A framework as in Claim 10, wherein the first search tier includes resource handles.
- 15) (currently amended) A framework as in Claim 10, wherein the first search tier includes threading classes.
- 16) (currently amended) A The search system of Claim 9, further comprising a tree structure of accessible/searchable objects built of NetResource types, including at least one NetResource subtype.

Application No. 10/082,525  
Amendment

Page 5

17) (original) A search system as in Claim 16, wherein said at least one NetResource subtype includes at least one of a virtual NetResource, a resource NetResource, a container NetResource, and a service NetResource.

18) (currently amended) ~~A framework for creating~~ The search systems with  
~~NetResources organized in a tree structure~~ system of Claim 16, further  
comprising:

- a) a first Virtual NetResource serving as a root of the tree structure, and
- b) at least one other virtual net resource, wherein said at least one other virtual net resource branches from said first Virtual NetResource.

19) (currently amended) A method for scanning a plurality of the container  
NetResources of Claim 17, comprising initiating a call to a common API such that  
said common API enables a scanning procedure specific to a particular container  
NetResource.

20) (currently amended) A method for searching the container NetResources of Claim  
17, comprising initiating a call to a common API such that said common API  
enables a searching procedure specific to a particular container NetResource.

21) (new) A process of searching network resources, comprising:

- a) establishing a first search framework tier defining sources/resources API;

Application No. 10/082,525  
Amendment

Page 6

- b) establishing a second search framework tier providing specific implementations of the sources/resources API;
- c) describing an action in the first search framework tier corresponding to a search; and
- d) implementing functions defined in the API as according to the described action, in the second tier.

22) (new) A framework, stored on computer-readable media, for creating a search system, comprising:

an abstraction layer to provide a user with a common interface to heterogeneous network objects;

wherein the abstraction layer includes

- a) source/resource API defined through at least one virtual NetResource class,
- b) a tree of accessible/searchable objects built of NetResource types,
- c) at least one manager class,
- d) at least one resource handle, and
- e) at least one thread class;

wherein the NetResource types represent the source/resource API through a set of virtual functions; and

wherein the at least one NetResource class creates the abstraction layer between a common set of functions in the API and specific implementations that support the API.